

IN THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 (cancelled).

Claim 2 (currently amended). Device according to Claim ~~4~~ 7 ,
wherein ~~the said~~ pull-through rod (24) is ~~bent in at least an approximately semicircular~~
~~shape and can be swiveled~~ swivelable over a range of at least approximately 180°.

Claim 3 (currently amended). Device according to Claim ~~4~~ 7 or 2,
wherein the swivel axis (~~23~~) of ~~the said~~ pull-through rod is laterally offset with respect to the
~~filling tube~~ axis of the filling tube, and ~~the said~~ closing ~~device (11) can be~~ elements are
laterally ~~offset~~ displaceable by approximately the same degree as said lateral offset of said
swivel axis of said pull-through rod, with respect to ~~the said~~ filling tube, (2) from a working
position in which the center axis (11a) of ~~the said~~ closing ~~device (11) elements~~ is coaxially
aligned with ~~the said~~ axis (~~2a~~) of ~~the said~~ filling tube (2).

Claim 4 (currently amended). Device according to Claim 3,
wherein actuation of the ~~offset movement of the~~ displacement of the closing ~~device~~
~~elements (11) first results in~~ initiates axial displacement of the casing brake (~~5~~) ~~being~~
~~pulled~~ away from the filling tube (2), the displacement of the casing brake taking place prior
to the displacement of the closing elements.

Claim 5 (currently amended). Device according to Claim 3 ,
wherein the return of the pull-through rod (24) to ~~its idle~~ said second position is coupled with
the return ~~motion~~ of the closing ~~device~~ elements to ~~its working the~~ position they occupied
prior to said displacement .

Claim 6 (currently amended). Device according to Claim 4,
wherein the return of the pull-through rod (24) to ~~its idle~~ said second position is coupled with
the return ~~motion~~ of the closing ~~device~~ elements to ~~its working the~~ position they occupied
prior to displacement.

Claim 7 (new). Device for pulling a front end of a tubular casing from a filling tube
of an apportioning filling machine, over which said casing is placed, away from an orifice of said
filling tube and through a casing brake and closing elements of said filling machine, said device
comprising a pull-through rod having a clamping hook on one end thereof for clamping said front
end of said casing, said pull-through rod having a semicircular shape and being swivelable
about an axis which is perpendicular to the axis of said filling tube, from a first position, in which
it passes through the casing brake and closing device and in which position said clamping hook
on said one end of said pull-through rod is located proximate said orifice of said filling tube, to a
second position in which the pull-through rod is swiveled and said clamping hook is moved
away from said orifice and through said casing brake and closing device.